

**Draft Proposed Action for the  
*Pines to Mines Trail Project*  
U.S. Forest Service  
Tahoe National Forest, Nevada County, California**

---

The Forest Service is initiating public scoping for the proposed Pines to Mines Trail project. The project proposes development of a multi-use native surface trail system connecting Nevada City, CA to Truckee, CA. The proposed trail system would be approximately 68 miles in length and would include all, or parts, of existing Forest Service network trails, as well as some new trail construction. (**Map 1**)

### **Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the Pines to Mines Trail project is to connect the community of Nevada City to the community of Truckee with a multi-use, recreational trail. Providing recreation opportunities is one of the Forest Service's major missions in California (SNFPA ROD, 2004). Residents, community organizations, and local businesses have expressed a need to expand public access to trails and open space, support economic development, improve sustainable recreation opportunities, and connect the western and eastern portions of Nevada County with a multi-use trail. Actions are needed to help achieve these shared goals. The proposal will serve to promote safe and sustainable recreation opportunities on public lands while continuing to meet our responsibilities to protect and preserve public resources. The actions would be designed to be consistent with management direction in the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP 1990) as amended.

### **Proposed Action**

To respond to the purpose and need described herein, the Forest Service Proposes the following actions:

- 1. New Trail Construction** – Construct approximately 16-18 miles of new, native surface, single-track trail from Eagle Lakes to Donner Summit connecting the existing Grouse Ridge and Hole in the Ground trails.  
\*There are two potential alignments being considered. The first, contingent on potential Forest Service acquisition of lands currently held in private ownership, proposes 18.2 miles of new trail construction to traverse the southeast facing slope of Red Mountain south of lake Sterling and cross Magonigal Summit. (**Map 2**)  
Under the second option, the trail drops down into Rattlesnake Creek and climbs back up to Magonigal Summit, utilizing portions of existing Forest Service roads in conjunction with 16.3 miles new trail construction. (**Map 2**)

2. **Designation of existing trails** – Designate all, or portions of, approximately 50 miles of identified existing Forest Service System trails as part of the new Pines to Mines Recreational Trail system including Donner Lake Rim (15E75), Grouse Ridge (13E28), Hole in the Ground (14E25), Pioneer (09E11), and Spaulding Lake (12E40). (**Map 1**)
3. **Designation of allowable use** – Designate the allowable uses of the proposed Pines to Mines Recreational Trails system. Forest Plan direction and Agency regulations, including the 2005 Travel Management Rule if applicable, along with different use scenarios and public input, will be assessed to determine the allowable uses. Potential uses include hiking/walking, running, mountain biking (including pedal-assist Class 1 E-Bike<sup>1</sup>), and equestrian riding.

Best Management Practices (BMP's) for trail construction as identified in the Forest Service Trails Handbook (FSH 2309.18) and Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Trails (EM-7720-103) as well as management requirements to protect public resources would be incorporated into trail design and construction.

## Public Participation

This project is subject to 36 CFR 218 Project-level Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process (Parts A and B). Only those individuals and entities who have submitted timely, specific written comments regarding a proposed project or activity during designated public comment periods are eligible to file an objection (36 CFR 218.25). Each individual or entity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

We are currently seeking public input on this proposal. If you have information specific to the proposed actions that you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of, or feel you have issues (points of dispute, debate, or disagreement) regarding potential effects of the proposed actions, please submit your comments either electronically to: [comments-pacificsouthwest-tahoe-yuba-river@usda.gov](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-tahoe-yuba-river@usda.gov) or by mail to Eli Ilano, Forest Supervisor, c/o Alonzo Henderson, Yuba River Ranger District, 631 Coyote Street, Nevada City, CA 95959-2250 or FAX (530) 478-6109. As we move forward in the planning process, public scoping input will be assessed in light of the project's stated purpose and need, and where appropriate, concerns and issues brought forward into the environmental analysis conducted for the Project.

The Forest Service will accept comments on this proposal for 30 days following publication of the Scoping Legal Notice in Grass Valley's *The Union* newspaper. The legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the timeframe of the comment period. Commenters should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

---

<sup>1</sup> **Class 1 E-Bike** - is defined as a low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle equipped with a motor (750 watts or less) that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

If you do not wish to comment but would like to follow the development of this project proposal, please let us know in writing by the above mentioned date. Submitted comments and/or addresses will be used to develop a list of interested persons for future mailings.

Additional detailed information about this project is also available by contacting John Brokaw, Environmental Coordinator on the Yuba River Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest, 631 Coyote Street, Nevada City, CA 95959-2250, (530) 265-4531 or at [john.brokaw@usda.gov](mailto:john.brokaw@usda.gov).

DRAFT





